



## **Platte Over Sand Creek Bridge Replacement Project Public Meeting Open House Summary April 10, 2018**

The public meeting was held at the Calvary Chapel, 5070 Edison Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO. It was an Open House format with approximately 20 people in attendance.

The Platte Avenue over Sand Creek project, focuses on bridge replacement, accommodating the Sand Creek Trail along the east side of the creek under the bridge and signaling the intersection at Space Center Drive. The approximate construction limits for the replacement of the eastbound and westbound Platte Avenue Bridges over Sand Creek is from Troy Hill Road to Babcock Road.

Aaron Egbert, City of Colorado Springs gave a brief overview of the project explaining that the parallel bridges built in 1956 are approaching the end of their service life. The bridges are being designed and constructed with the future of Platte Avenue in mind by providing for future additional lanes. Additionally, a signal will be added at Space Center Drive and sidewalks will be provided along the north and south sides of Platte Avenue over the creek.

Questions and comments from the audience were categorized as follows.

### **Existing bridge condition / Sand Creek /Erosion**

Causes of the deterioration and steps being taken to improve and extend the life of the new bridge were primary concern. There was a brief discussion of how salt in deicing chemicals contributes to corrosion especially when it seeps into the joints in the bridge deck. The new bridge will not have these joints. Discussion of the quality of rebar and concrete in the existing bridge from 1950s construction methods as compared to the new plans for more resilient concrete, epoxy-coated reinforcing and a waterproofing membrane prior to placing an asphalt driving surface.

### **Life span of new bridge and maintenance**

The new structure's length will be shortened from 350 feet to 200 feet. The west end is being pulled in, but holding the east end. The structure will be widened to expand capacity to 6-lanes of traffic in the future. The new structure is designed for a 75-year life. Once these bridges were identified for replacement, the City has reduced the maintenance performed in order to maximize the use of the City's limited funds.

### **Safety concerns**

Pictures showing the deteriorating bridge, the 2008 flood damage and subsequent deck patching all demonstrate the need for this project to move forward at this time. Modern bridge rail that meets crash test standards will be incorporated into the design. The new structure will improve pedestrian safety by providing sidewalks on the bridge and connections to the future

Regional Sand Creek Trail beneath the bridge. This project team is working in conjunction with City Parks department as the design progresses.

### **Timeline of the project and traffic impacts / construction phasing**

The project is anticipated to begin construction in early 2019 continuing through 2021. There will be some intermediate, short-term closures around the work at Space Center Drive though care is being given to phasing. Closures will be limited to night and on weekends where possible.

### **City development to the east**

Plans for development continue to focus east such as the Banning Lewis Ranch development. Platte Avenue is a major east/west thoroughfare and Mr. Egbert explained that the City will be conducting a transportation study later this year to explore future traffic needs. The last study was undertaken in the early 2000s.

### **Aesthetics of the Bridge**

There was brief discussion on the importance of the smaller, aesthetic details of the project. The project is fiscally constrained, but the audience was pleased by the aesthetics and amenities of sidewalks and creek improvements being added. Citizens were encouraged to go to the project website and provide input on preferences and examples of desired aesthetics shown as examples from here in Colorado Springs and elsewhere in the country.

### **How to stay informed**

There are many ways to provide input and be notified of meetings and to get general information. Those include the project website at <https://coloradosprings.gov/pscbridge>  
Enewsletters: Sign up by sending an email to [Allison@bachmanpr.com](mailto:Allison@bachmanpr.com)  
Email: City Project Manager Aaron Egbert [AEgbert@springsgov.com](mailto:AEgbert@springsgov.com)